



**DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY**  
THE DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD, SUITE 2533  
FT. BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-6221

JUL 17 1996

AQOG

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICTS

SUBJECT: Flight Safety Concerns

A recent pre-acceptance aircraft accident caused four contractor personnel fatalities. The investigation suggests that vendor supplied hardware caused the crash. This letter is to share my concerns and direct a review of our in-plant methods for identifying and verifying flight critical operations.

Recently issued DCMC policy (DLAD 5000.4, Part VI, Chapter 21) requires DCMC personnel to identify flight critical operations and conduct 100% verifications. I realize that absent customer direction, identifying flight critical operations is a judgment call. I am also aware that we have varying interpretations as to exactly how this policy should apply. But we cannot afford less than our best judgments in this area, nor less than complete dedication to flight safety. I therefore direct that by October 30, 1996, the Districts shall review local DCMC in-plant methods for handling flight critical operations at each contractor facility producing, maintaining, or overhauling aircraft. These reviews shall assess the adequacy of the local DCMC methodology for identifying and verifying flight critical operations, to include flight operations areas, aircraft assembly operations, component assembly, and parts manufacturing, including purchased items. In the very near future, we will contact the Districts and the Aircraft Program Management Office to help us improve and revise our policies and eliminate any misunderstandings in this area.

Our flying customers appreciate your efforts. The point of contact is Dick Kane, Product & Manufacturing Assurance Team (AQOG), at DSN 427-2408, or (703) 767-2408, e-mail: richard\_kane@hq.dla.mil.

ROBERT W. DREWES  
Major General, USAF  
Commander